

13. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim [12] 52 wherein said  
[support arms, said lattice, and said screen are] grille is molded  
in a monolithic unit.

14. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim [12] 52 wherein [are formed  
a plurality of tooth-shaped] said screens [and each said screen is]  
are formed parallel to [the] each other.

28. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim [27] 53 wherein said  
[support arms, said lattice, and said screen are] grille is molded  
in a monolithic unit.

29. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim [27] 53 wherein [are formed  
a plurality of tooth-shaped screens and each] said screens [is] are  
formed parallel to [the] each other.

42. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim [41] 54 wherein said  
[support arms, said lattice, and said screen are] grille is molded  
in a monolithic unit.

43. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim [41] 54 wherein [are formed  
a plurality of tooth-shaped screens, each] said screens are formed  
parallel to the other.

46. (Amended) A method of draining a portion of the water from  
an aquarium tank having a tank floor covered with gravel to a  
predetermined depth and with it the sediment and impurities that have  
gathered with the gravel in the bottom of the tank comprising the

1 steps of:

- 2       a) providing a flexible hose having first and second  
3       opposite ends;
- 4       b) providing a tube having upper and lower distal  
5       ends and connecting said upper distal end thereof to said  
6       first end of said elongated flexible hose;
- 7       c) providing a [tooth-shaped] grille defined by a  
8       plurality of three-dimensional tooth-shaped lattices and  
9       screens covering said lattices, said screens having  
10      apertures formed therethrough [chamber whose walls are  
11      perforated by apertures that are] of a size to allow  
12      passage therethrough of water, sediment and impurities but  
13      not gravel, and connecting [it] said grille to said lower  
14      distal end of said tube;
- 15      d) immersing said [lower distal] tube [end of said  
16      tube] and said grille into the aquarium tank such that  
17      said grille may be placed [adjacent] in contact with the  
18      gravel at the bottom of the aquarium tank,
- 19      e) creating a flow of water from the tank through  
20      said [perforations] apertures into said grille, said tube,  
21      and said flexible hose to drain water, sediment and  
22      impurities therethrough;
- 23      f) moving said grille about the gravel at the bottom  
24      of the aquarium tank such that the gravel particles are  
25      forced by said movement to bump and rub against each  
26      other, outside said tube, to dislodge the sediment and  
27      impurities that have gathered therewith; and,

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-3-

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4 g) discharging said water, sediment and impurities  
5 from the aquarium tank [to a drain].  
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7 52. (New) Apparatus for use in draining, cleaning and refilling  
8 an aquarium tank having a floor covered with gravel to a predeter-  
9 mined depth comprising:

10 a) an elongated flexible hose having first and  
11 second opposite ends;

12 b) a tube including an upper distal end for connec-  
13 tion to said first end of said flexible hose, and a lower  
14 distal end adapted to be immersed in the aquarium tank  
15 such that said lower end may be placed near the gravel;

16 c) a first means attachable to said second end of  
17 said flexible hose and for connection to a flowing water  
18 source for creating a continuous flow of water from the  
19 tank through said tube and said flexible hose;

20 d) a grille, covering said lower distal end of said  
21 tube, and including a chamber surrounded by three-dimen-  
22 sional tooth-shaped lattices having screens covering said  
23 lattices, said screens having a plurality of apertures  
24 formed therethrough that are narrower than the width of  
25 the gravel particles covering the floor of the aquarium,  
26 said grille arranged for contact with the gravel for  
27 moving the gravel about the floor of the tank such that  
the gravel particles are forced by said movement to bump  
and rub against each other outside said tube to dislodge  
the sediment and impurities that have gathered therewith,  
and wherein said sediment and impurities are swept by said

1 water flow through said apertures into said chamber, up  
2 said tube and through said hose for discard without the  
3 entrance of gravel into said tube or hose; and,

4 e) wherein at least one of said lattices being of  
5 a height greater than the depth of the floor-covering  
6 gravel so as to always present a portion of said apertured  
7 screen to the aquarium water above the gravel to allow a  
8 continuous flow of water into said tube to sweep the  
9 debris, that passes into said tube through said apertures,  
10 out of the aquarium.

11 12 53. (New) Apparatus for use in draining, cleaning and refilling  
13 an aquarium tank having a tank floor covered with gravel to a  
14 predetermined depth comprising:

15 a) an elongated flexible hose having first and  
16 second opposite ends;

17 b) a tube including an upper distal end for connec-  
18 tion to said first end of said flexible hose, and a lower  
19 distal end adapted to be immersed in the aquarium tank  
20 such that said lower end may be placed near the gravel,  
21 said hose and said tube of such length to allow said  
22 second flexible hose end to be placed below the level of  
23 water in the tank and a partial vacuum to be started to  
24 create a natural siphon action to create a flow of water  
25 from the tank through said tube and through said flexible  
26 hose;

27 c) a grille, covering said lower distal end of said  
28 tube, and including a chamber surrounded by three-dimen-

1 sional tooth-shaped lattices having screens covering said  
2 lattices, said screens having a plurality of apertures  
3 formed therethrough that are narrower than the width of  
4 the gravel particles covering the floor of the aquarium,  
5 said grille arranged for contact with the gravel for  
6 moving the gravel about the floor of the tank such that  
7 the gravel particles are forced by said movement to bump  
8 and rub against each other outside said tube to dislodge  
9 the sediment and impurities that have gathered therewith,  
10 and wherein said sediment and impurities are swept by said  
11 water flow through said apertures into said chamber, up  
12 said tube and through said hose for discard without the  
13 entrance of gravel into said tube or hose; and,

14 d) wherein at least one of said lattices being of  
15 a height greater than the depth of the floor-covering  
16 gravel so as to always present a portion of said apertured  
17 screen to the aquarium water above the gravel to allow a  
18 continuous flow of water into said tube to sweep the  
19 debris, that passes into said tube through said apertures,  
20 out of the aquarium.

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22 84. (New) Apparatus for use in draining, cleaning and refilling  
23 an aquarium tank having a tank floor covered with gravel to a  
24 predetermined depth comprising:

- 25 a) an elongated flexible hose having first and  
26 second opposite ends;  
27 b) a tube including an upper distal end for connec-  
28 tion to said first end of said flexible hose, and a lower

1 distal end adapted to be immersed in the aquarium tank  
2 such that said lower end may be placed near the gravel,  
3 said hose and said tube of such length to allow said  
4 second flexible hose end to be placed below the level of  
5 water in the tank and a partial vacuum to be started to  
6 create a natural siphon action to create a flow of water  
7 from the tank through said tube and through said flexible  
8 hose;

9 c) a water pump, including a pump inlet for connec-  
10 tion to said flexible hose second end, for drawing water  
11 through said hose out of the tank;

12 d) a grille, covering said lower distal end of said  
13 tube, and including a chamber surrounded by three-dimen-  
14 sional tooth-shaped lattices having screens covering said  
15 lattices, said screens having a plurality of apertures  
16 formed therethrough that are narrower than the width of  
17 the gravel particles covering the floor of the aquarium,  
18 said grille arranged for contact with the gravel for  
19 moving the gravel about the floor of the tank such that  
20 the gravel particles are forced by said movement to bump  
21 and rub against each other outside said tube to dislodge  
22 the sediment and impurities that have gathered therewith,  
23 and wherein said sediment and impurities are swept by said  
24 water flow through said apertures into said chamber, up  
25 said tube and through said hose for discard without the  
26 entrance of gravel into said tube or hose; and,

27 e) wherein at least one of said lattices being of  
28 a height greater than the depth of the floor-covering